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**From:** Fisher, Timothy  
**Sent:** 2017-07-31T15:29:11-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** PP for WO410  
**Received:** 2017-07-31T15:29:34-04:00  
National Conservation Lands Presentation August 2017.pptx

Here you go Colin  
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**NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS**

February 2017

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# The National Conservation Lands

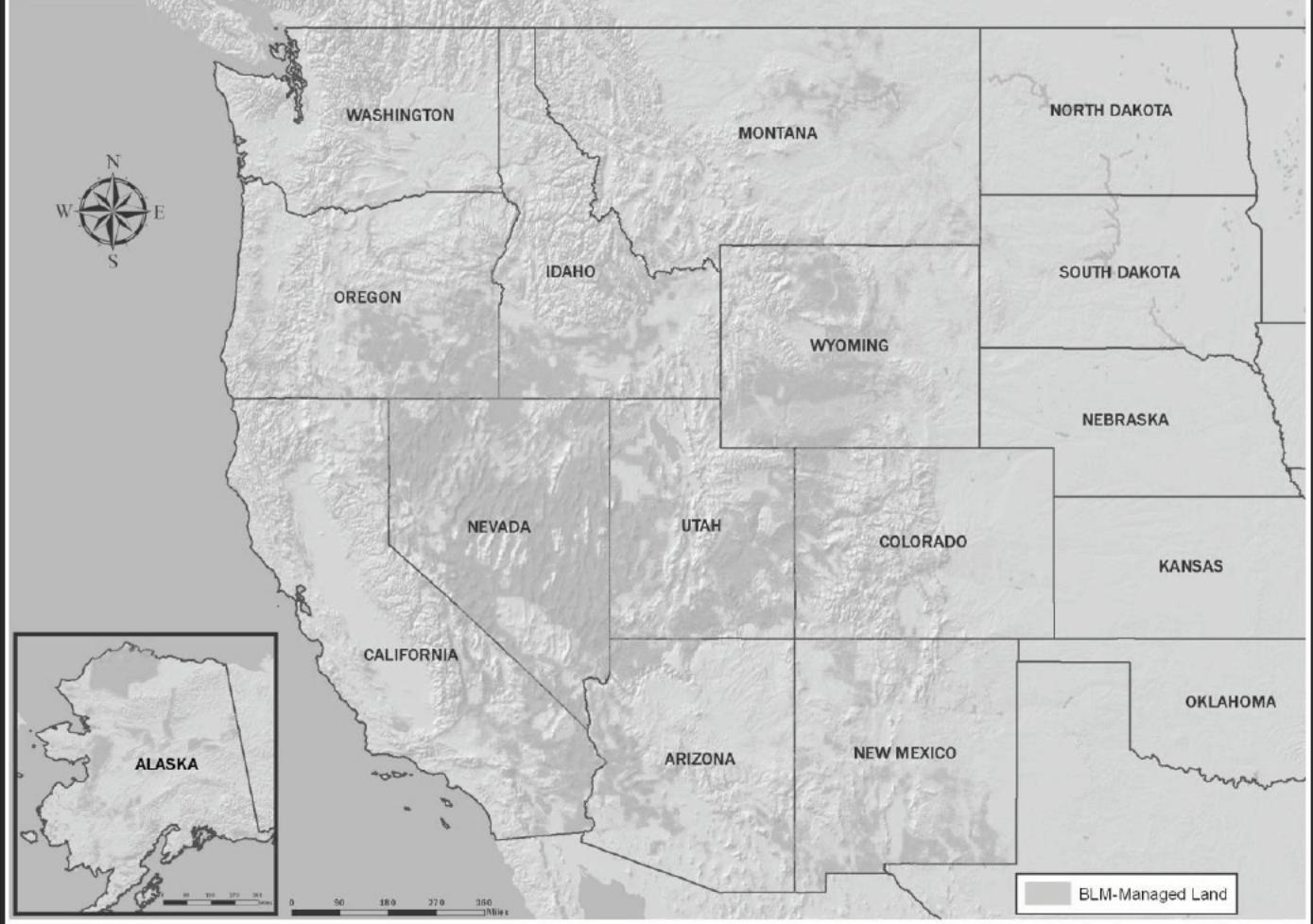
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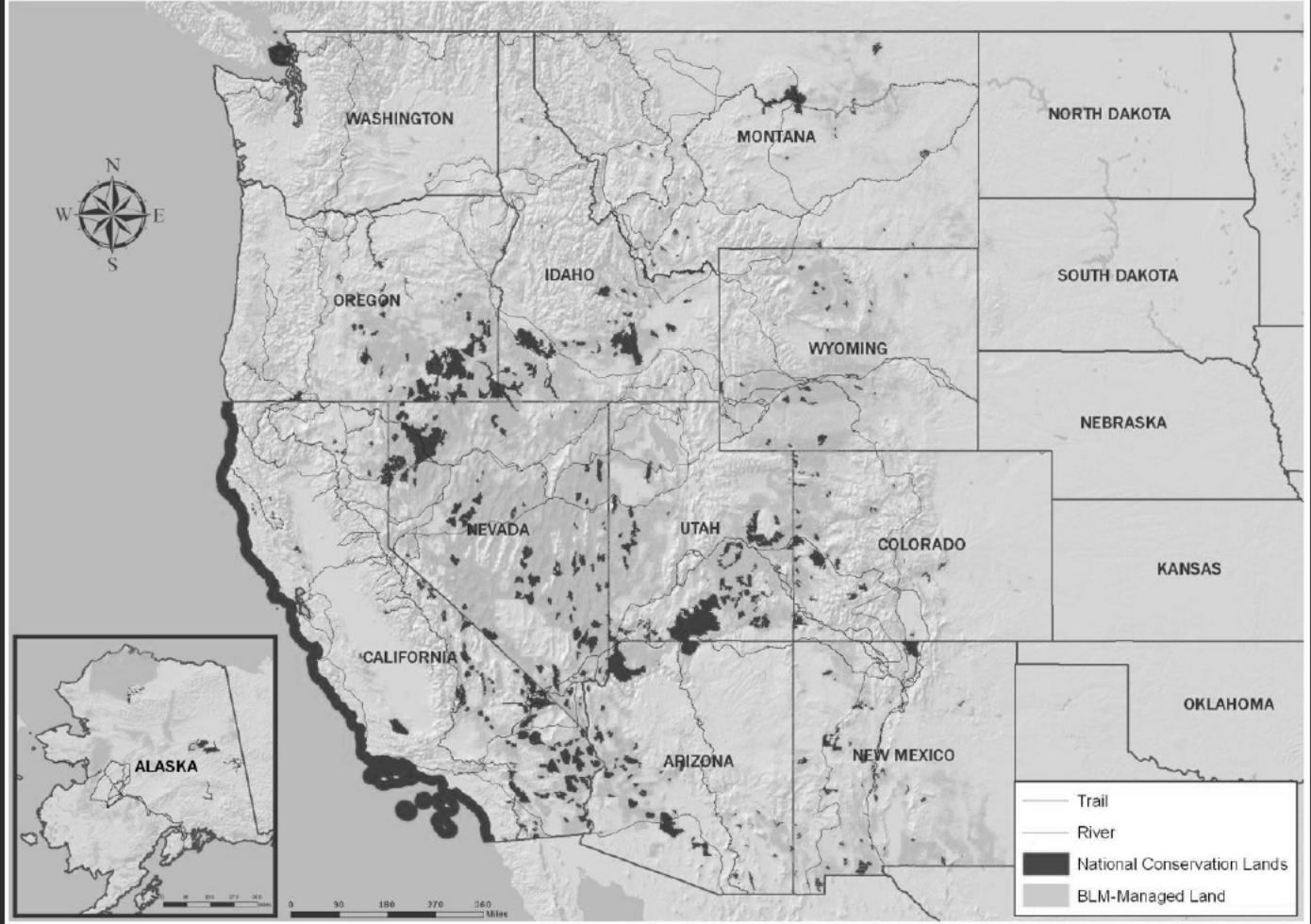
# Conservation



Bureau of Land Management Lands



## Bureau of Land Management and National Conservation Lands



# 18 National Scenic and Historic Trails

## 5,078 miles



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# 69 Wild and Scenic Rivers

## 2,423 miles

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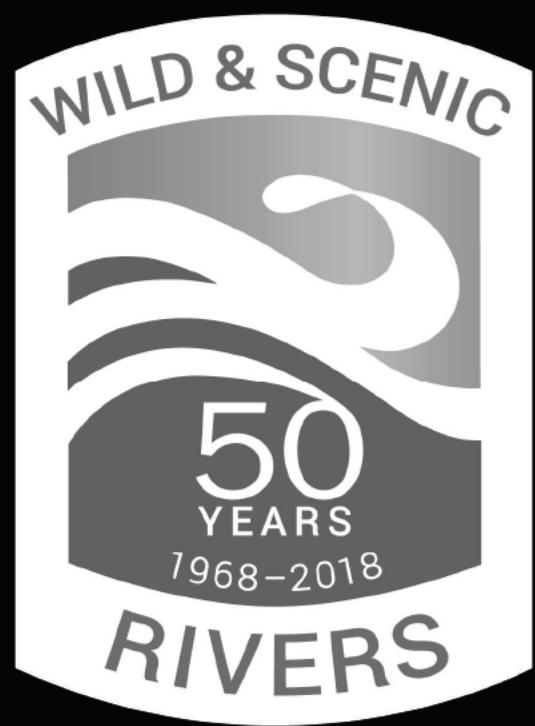
American River, CA



Bruneau Wild and Scenic River, ID



Delta Wild and Scenic River, AK



**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Trails  
System & Wild and Scenic Rivers Acts!**

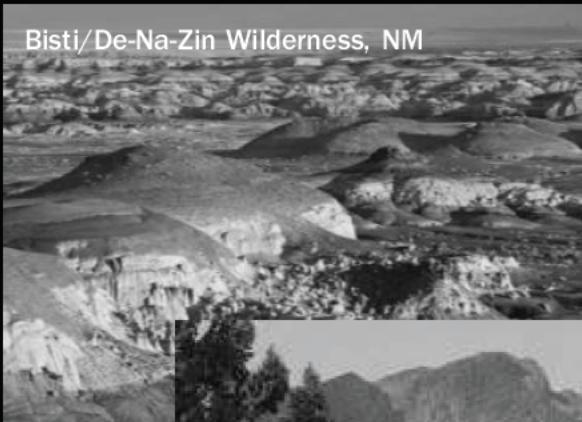
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# **224 Wilderness Areas**

# **8,760,479 acres**

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Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness, NM



South Jackson Mountains Wilderness, NV

Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness, UT



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# **517 Wilderness Study Areas**

## **12,607,811 acres**

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**16 National Conservation Areas/5 Similar Designations  
3,676,979 acres and 428,440 acres, respectively**

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Red Rock Canyon NCA, NV



King Range NCA, CA



Red Cliffs NCA, UT

## Black Rock Desert High-Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA



# 27 National Monuments

## 9,451,978 acres

Fort Ord NM, California



Rio Grande del Norte NM, New Mexico



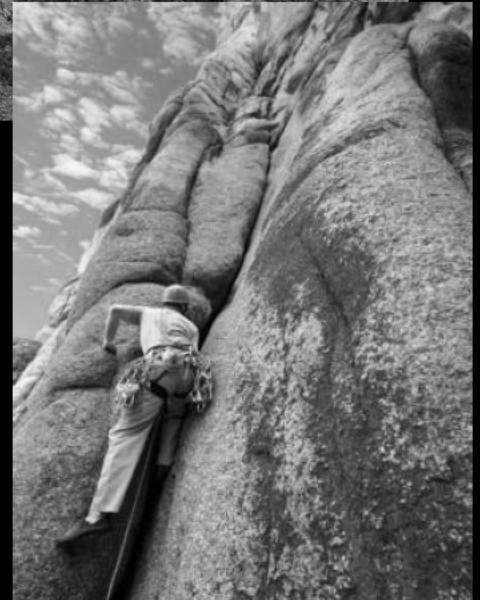
San Juan Islands NM, Washington



# Economics and Tourism



# Recreation



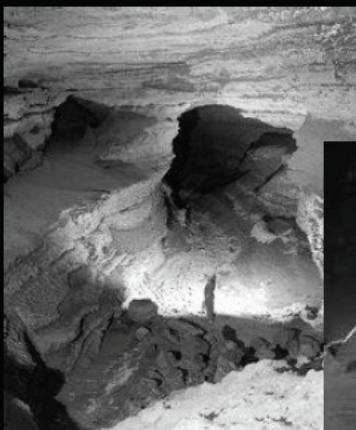
# Ecological Significance



# Culture/Paleontology



# Science



# Education



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## Outreach and Public Engagement

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@mypubliclands BLM National Tumblr

@mypubliclands BLM National Instagram

@mypubliclands BLM National Flickr

BLM National Twitter

BLM National Facebook

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# Thank you!

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**NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS**

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**Timothy Fisher  
Program Lead – National Monuments and  
National Conservation Areas**

**National Conservation Lands  
Bureau of Land Management  
Washington, DC**

Notes Summary:

Slide 1: 'Introduce the National Conservation Lands & newest conservation system in Interior's portfolio

The BLM is unique in its mission of managing the public lands for multiple use and sustained yield of resources, including conservation. About 36 million acres of BLM land are recognized for outstanding conservation values and designated for special management by Acts of Congress or Presidential Proclamations. These are called the National Conservation Lands.

These lands encompasses some of the most scenic, culturally rich, scientifically important and LEAST KNOWN of all public land in America.

Although conservation and resource protection is the dominant use that shapes all other aspects of the planning and management of these lands, "multiple-uses" occur, as long as they are not in conflict with the designating proclamation or legislation.

Prior to their designations, these lands were public. The designation gives these lands special protections.'

Notes Summary:

Slide 2: 'Over the years, the meaning of conservation has changed. It is now thought by many as being synonymous with protection of natural and cultural assets.

BLM's system of National Conservation lands is composed of lands that have been designated by the President or Congress for the conservation, protection, and restoration of special values and resources. It is a system of protected public lands that stands proudly next to our nation's system of National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and National Forests.

In managing these specially designated lands, the BLM must comply with the purposes and objectives of the designating presidential proclamations and acts of Congress. Discretionary uses that conflict with designating proclamations and acts are not allowed, but many compatible uses occur throughout the National Conservation Lands. This may seem like a simple concept, but, in practice, it can be very difficult to accomplish.'

Notes Summary:

Slide 5: 'For National Scenic and Historic Trails, the BLM's responsibilities date back to the passage of the National Trails System Act in 1968, which included the designation of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and which is partially located on BLM lands. National Scenic and Historic Trails are designated by Congress.'

In addition to their cultural significance and beauty, these trails provide access to remarkable hunting and fishing opportunities.'

Slide 6: 'For Wild and Scenic Rivers, the BLM's responsibilities date back to the passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968, which designated segments on BLM of the Rio Grande River in New Mexico and the Rogue River in Oregon. Wild and Scenic Rivers are designated by Congress.'

These rivers offer pristine habitat for wildlife and unique opportunities for backcountry recreation.'

Slide 7: '2018 is the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System & Wild and Scenic Rivers Acts! This anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate some of the Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Trails System successes and plan for the future.'

Notes Summary:

Slide 8: 'Although the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964, it did not at that time include the BLM as a manager of wilderness. The BLM didn't get its first designated wilderness area until 1983, the Bear Trap Canyon unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Area in Montana. Wilderness areas are designated by Congress.'

50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act in 2014 brought together federal agencies and private groups in celebration of wilderness preservation. It was also an opportunity to look to the future of wilderness preservation.'

Notes Summary:

Slide 9: 'Wilderness study areas were included in FLPMA, and their history is a bit complicated. A WSA is a roadless area or island that has been inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics as described in Section 603 of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. While the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) continues to maintain wilderness inventories, it no longer designates WSAs. However, Congress can designate a WSA. The BLM manages WSAs to maintain their suitability for preservation as wilderness until Congress decides to designate an area as wilderness or to "release" it.

Therefore, the acres of WSAs have decreased over time as Congressional actions are taken to either designate it as wilderness or is released to from WSA status.'

Notes Summary:

Slide 10: 'The BLM's roots with National Conservation Areas go back more than 40 years, to 1970 when Congress created the King Range National Conservation area on the Pacific Coast of Northern CA.

Since 1970, Congress has designated 21 National Conservation Areas and similar conservation designations on BLM lands and, in FLPMA, addressed conservation and management of the California Desert Conservation Area.'

Slide 11: 'There are three photos on this slide (click in presentation mode to view photos).

Black Rock Desert High-Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA is home to the burning man event. It is the largest permitted event on BLM lands and the attendees practice leave no trace principles.'

Notes Summary:

Slide 12: 'Now the BLM manages 27 National Monuments encompassing more than 9 million acres.

Most recently, in January of 2017, there were two expansions of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and California Coastal National Monument. In December of 2016, there were two new national monuments designated on BLM lands:

Bears Ears National Monument in Utah at 1.6 million acres.

Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada at 300,000 acres.'

Notes Summary:

Slide 13: 'The National Conservation Lands provide many economic benefits to their surrounding communities:

Outfitters, guides, and tours provided by local communities.

Visitors' Centers based in surrounding communities.

Community-run shops, restaurants, and other places of business.

Tourism.

The BLM recently completed an economic report and some of the findings are below:

Visitors to National Conservation Lands spent about \$460 million on trip-related expenditures in 2016.

An estimated 7,100 jobs were supported by National Conservation Lands visitor spending in 2016.

Spending related to National Conservation Lands visits in 2016 supported about \$630 million in economic activity, including \$230 million in labor income.

Visitation to National Monuments and NCAs grows at a rate nearly 4 times the rate of all other BLM recreation sites. These popular sites hosted an estimated 8.6 million visits in 2016, a number is projected

Notes Summary:

to continue to increase.

On a budget of only \$2.73 per acre, the National Monuments and NCAs program of the BLM supported \$17 of regional economic contributions from recreation for every \$1 of federal funding.

BLM has a draft Travel and Tourism Action Plan that implements the National Travel and Tourism Strategy (2012); we expect to release our Plan by the end of 2017.

BLM will participate in the upcoming International IPW Travel and Tourism Forum in Washington, DC in early June. Please visit Federal Row to learn more about the BLM's role in supporting travel and tourism on public lands.'

Notes Summary:

Slide 14: '15 million recreational user visit the National Conservation Lands each year. The National Conservation Lands boast some of the West's most spectacular landscapes and provide outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities. 99% are open to hunting and fishing. The public can take advantage of opportunities for solitude and backcountry hunting and fishing in the wilderness or visit a national monument in a less remote location. Wild and Scenic Rivers offer pristine habitat for many species of fish and National Scenic and Historic Trails offer access to remarkable landscapes and prime hunting and fishing opportunities.

Over 1/4 of all recreation on BLM lands take place on the National Conservation Lands

There are countless amounts of opportunity from rock climbing, river rafting, mountain biking, hunting & fishing to hiking in some of the most rugged & remote lands in the Nation.

They offer unprecedented adventure & solitude.'

Notes Summary:

Slide 15: 'Most of the National Conservation Lands have ecological importance. They provide habitat for many wildlife species. Restoration and protection of habitats are a major focus on these lands:

Over 30% of all sage grouse habitat; 54% of California Condors Range; 30% (233) of special status animal species

A paddle fish "a living fossil" dating back over 48 million years thrives in the protected backwaters of the Upper Missouri Wild & Scenic River in Montana.

The Snake River Birds of Prey NCA with the highest density of birds of prey in North America

The Offshore Rocks of the California Coastal National Monument provides breeding grounds for 19 marine birds species, 11 of which are on the endangered special concern or sensitive lists.'

Notes Summary:

Slide 16: 'Objects of Cultural/Paleontological importance are found in many of our monuments & NCAs.

The only physical evidence of the Lewis & Clark Expedition is William Clark's 1806 signature in Sand Stone located within Pompeys Pillar National Monument in Montana.

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument contains one of the highest density of archaeological sites in the Nation and is an example of continuing multiple uses while managing for values & objects.

Over 80% of the monument is leased for fluid minerals development, 125 wells with 50% of them producing commercial CO2.

Livestock grazing and recreation also occur within the monument.'

Notes Summary:

Slide 17: 'The National Conservation Lands are an extraordinary natural laboratory. Scientific research anchors much of the National Conservation Lands management.

This research is providing rich discoveries for scientists all over the world as well as supporting innovative management solutions for BLM & other land managing agencies.

Fort Stanton, New Mexico - Snowy River Cave NCA contains a five mile plus long calcium carbonate formation that may be the largest in the world. The layering of hydraulic action has also provided a geologic history that will keep scientists understand precise details of climate mechanisms over time.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) - Discovery of 20 plus species of dinosaurs, many of which were first discovered there.'

Notes Summary:

Slide 18: 'Many of our educational program help teach youth about the National Conservation Lands - future voters & workers.

Educational programs educate the public on issues we seek public input & they will support our work.

Currently there are 81 Hands on the Land sites 27 hosted on the National Conservation Lands.'

Notes Summary:

Slide 19: 'Methods of Engagement:

Encourage educational programming: Using this special places for children's activities, educational/service events, public recreation

Internal Information Sharing: Educating our workforce about these lands builds internal appreciation and helps them to share information with the public. We seek out opportunities to present to other agencies and the Department of Interior, work with other programs, and education other Bureau of Land Management employees about the National Conservation Lands (e.g. BLM Daily)

External Information Sharing: We work with our public affairs office on social media content, work with media, recreational maps, Bob's photography, etc.

Branding: creating a common feel to building system identity/appreciation.

Educational Materials: recreational maps, images on posters/postcards, stickers, others'

Notes Summary:

Slide 20: 'If speaking to new employees:

Thank you for your time today. I'm excited to welcome you to the BLM team and I look forward to working with you!

If speaking to potential employees/students/etc.:

In addition to spreading the word about the National Conservation Lands and the BLM, we encourage you to consider joining the BLM Team! The BLM values unique experiences, skills, and backgrounds in our employees and we encourage you to consider internships, jobs, and a career with BLM.'